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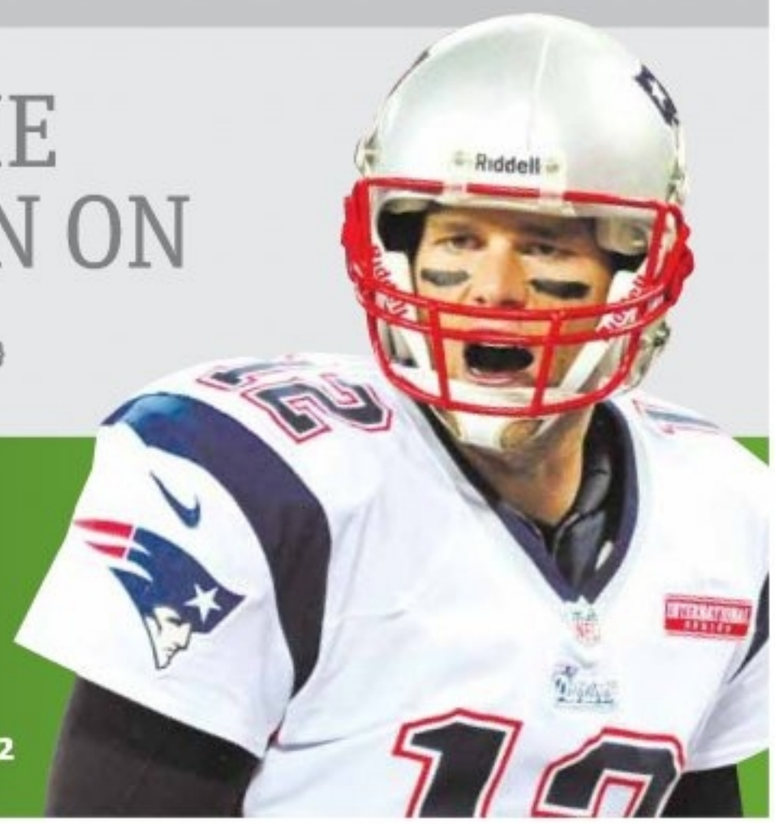
PATS LAY THE SMACKDOWN ON ST. LOUIS {page 24}



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Monday, October 29, 2012

BRACE FOR IMPACT

Bay State prepared to meet Hurricane Sandy ▶ Boston public schools closed, city workers told to stay home ▶ Batten down the hatches! {page 02}

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In the news

12-18

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency officials said yesterday that the state will experience damaging winds for a period of 12 to 18 hours associated with widespread power outages and heavy rains. Both south and east-facing coastlines were expected to have moderate to major coastal flooding and beach erosion. METRO

Today's local tweet

"Psyched to be back in #Boston and ready to get my storm prep on! Blow me #Sandy!"

@GOLDENPRGUY WAS TAKING HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS TO A NEW LEVEL YESTERDAY

Sandy the storm is rising before the Hub

City closes schools, urges workers to stay home ▶ Worst of storm expected in Bay State today ▶ Boston expected to see strong, fierce winds

ERIN BALDASSARI/METRO

▶ Cida Olivera and her daughter Victoria stocked up on bottled water, batteries and food in preparation of Hurricane Sandy yesterday.

Hurricane Sandy is soon expected to make good on threats of strong, damaging winds, widespread power outages and coastal flooding as she moves toward the region.

"Because it's such a large storm it has a large wind field and its impacts will be felt far from the center of the storm," said Lance Franck, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Taunton.

The expectation of severe weather led to the cancelation of dozens of schools, meetings and events yesterday as people prepared for the worst.

Boston Mayor Thomas Menino urged non-essential city workers to stay home and canceled Boston Public Schools for Monday.

Lynn officials also canceled school, and other coastal towns made storm supplies such as sandbags available to residents.

"We're going to get through this. We are as well prepared as we possibly can be," Gov. Deval Patrick said yesterday from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency headquarters in Framingham. He declared a state of emergency on Saturday ahead of the storm.

Forecasters predicted that Sandy, once a Category 2 hurricane with winds reaching 110 mph, would bring strong winds to the Boston area. Wind gusts could peak between 60 and 80 mph and Boston could see about an inch of rain. Forecasters said that areas west of Boston would see more rain — up to 3 inches — and slightly weaker wind speeds.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON & MORGAN ROUSSEAU

ERIK BALDASSARI/METRO

▶ From left, Ghalai, Ghazi and Ghazel helped their mom Nadia Baghdadi shop for flashlights and batteries at The Home Depot in Medford yesterday.

Sandy's stay

The National Weather Service in Taunton said Sandy was expected to make landfall along the Central New Jersey coast sometime Monday night. However, because of her size, her impact will be felt throughout the region before she hits land, according to the weather service.

- Wind gusts of more than 50 mph were expected to breeze through the region starting at 8 a.m. today.
- The worst of the storm is expected to hit the Boston area this afternoon into tonight. Wind gusts could be between 60 and 80 mph.
- Tomorrow is expected to be a transition day where things begin to improve, said Lance Franck, a NWS meteorologist. It will remain breezy until Friday.

How will Sandy compare to Irene?

Irene hit the Northeast in August 2011. As of Sunday, that storm ranked as the fifth costliest hurricane in United States history, and caused at least 56 deaths.

Damage estimates throughout the United States were estimated near $15.6 billion. The MBTA suspended all public transportation at 8 a.m. on August 28, during the storm's descent on New England.

Power to the powerless

If the region loses power, it's likely your phone battery will soon be turning red limiting your texting, tweeting, Facebook and overall Internet time. But don't worry. Your life isn't over. Here are some of Metro's favorite and everlasting ideas for you to pass the time while your power is out:

- **Play a board game.** When was the last time you actually sat with some friends and played a board game? Remember when you would beg your parents to play "Clue," "Monopoly" and "Candy Land"? Well now is your chance to do that. Sure, you'll have to do it by candle light, but isn't that better? Add some drinks to the mix and before you know it, you're a few hours closer to getting your power back. Just don't burn down your home.
- **Read a book.** Your phone, Kindle, television and computer are likely dead or dying. It's the perfect opportunity to give your eyes a rest from all of that screen time. Break out the candles and dive into that book you've been meaning to get to.
- **Get some rest.** With everyone's busy and hectic schedules it's a great break from the grueling pace of daily life. Get a good night's rest and hopefully the power will be back on by morning so you can get back to draining your phone by endlessly posting how refreshed you feel on Twitter and Facebook.

In the news

Cahill trial set to begin this week

MASSACHUSETTS. The public corruption trial of former state treasurer Tim Cahill is expected to begin this week. Chaill, of Quincy, was indicted earlier this year on charges of violating the state ethics law, conspiracy to violate the state ethics law, procurement fraud and conspiracy to commit procurement fraud. He is accused of using about 75 percent of the lottery's $2 million budget to run ads in the final months before the 2010 election that promoted the lottery as a well-managed organization that gives funds back to cities and towns. Cahill, who as treasurer oversaw the state lottery, ran as an independent candidate for governor in 2010. The trial was scheduled to start Monday, but with the storm closing state offices, it was unclear what day it would begin. METRO

NICOLAOS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Cahill

Former T police academy student alleges hazing

BOSTON. The MBTA is investigating a hazing complaint filed by a former transit police academy student, a spokesman said yesterday.

"The MBTA has retained outside counsel to investigate the matter. No other students from the class filed a complaint. The Executive Director of the Municipal Police Training Committee has been notified of the complaint," said T spokesman Joe Pesaturo

No further details were released by the MBTA, however according to a WCVB-TV report, the student alleges recruits were forced to take showers while touching each other under freezing water, and were forced to eat multiple Ring Dings before a long run. He also claims he was sprayed with dirty, Coca-Cola-colored water while on a run through a cemetery. METRO

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In the news

Priest takes leave after allegation

NORWELL. The pastor of a Norwell church has taken a voluntary administrative leave of absence after an allegation of abuse, the Archdiocese of Boston announced yesterday. An allegation of inappropriate behavior in the presence of minors was reported against the Rev. Thomas Maguire, the archdiocese said. The conduct is reported to have occurred recently. Maguire is the pastor of Saint Helen Mother of the Emperor Constantine church. METRO

Tailgate party raises money for Lovin' Spoonfuls

BOSTON. Lovin' Spoonfuls, a Brookline-based nonprofit that aims to end hunger in the Boston area, had its second annual Ultimate Tailgate fund-raiser last night on Boston's waterfront at Sam's, raising money for combatting hunger. METRO

Menino hospitalized with virus following return from Italy visit

Boston's Mayor Thomas M. Menino is being treated for a virus following his recent trip to Italy.

Menino was admitted to Brigham and Women's Hospital with a "flu-like virus" on Friday evening, according to a spokesman. He returned from his vacation in Italy late last week and saw his doctor on Friday when he wasn't feeling well.

His doctor said he should go to the hospital as a precaution.

"He's doing very well, and he's very actively involved in planning and dealing with preparations for the coming storm," said John Guilfoil, the mayor's deputy press secretary, on Sunday.

When asked for details on the 69-year-old's condition, a spokeswoman for Brigham and Women's told Metro that "per privacy laws, no information is being released by the hospital."

Quoted

"He's doing very well, and he's very actively involved in planning and dealing with preparations for the coming storm."

JOHN GUILFOIL, THE MAYOR'S DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY

Menino left for the vacation on Oct. 14. The trip was supposed to include stops in Rome and Sicily as well as a Mediterranean cruise, according to reports.

"It's Angela's trip," Menino told the Boston Globe earlier this month. "It's our 46th wedding anniversary, and she has been wanting to do this. She finally found the trip she wanted, and I acquiesced."

This is not the first time the mayor has returned from a trip to Italy with a medical ailment.

In November 2010, he picked up a bacterial infection after scraping his elbow at a conference in Florence.

METRO

News in brief

Bike theft suspect arrested

BOSTON. Transit police arrested a 36-year-old Taunton man Friday night for allegedly trying to disassemble a bicycle racked at the Sullivan Square station in Charlestown.

David Deandrade was reportedly seen trying to remove a bicycle wheel there while carrying a duffle bag that had "a set of heavy-duty wire cutters and various needle nose pliers, all instruments which could facilitate the removal of bicycles and/or its parts."

Deandrade was charged with attempted larceny and possession of burglarious tools.

Transit police have said that bike thefts are one of the most common crimes on the MBTA, with Alewife Station being hit the hardest. METRO

Complaints target 'stealth super PAC'

MASSACHUSETTS. A union-backed super PAC targeting Republican state lawmakers has raised the hackles of a right-leaning group that claims the super PAC is a "super anonymous, super special interest, super PAC."

The Mass Values Independent Expenditure PAC will file its financial disclosures today, and they will show that it received $75,000 each from the Massachusetts Teachers Association and the Service Employees International Union Local 1199, the organization's spokesman said. The Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, a right-leaning nonprofit group, has filed a complaint with the Office of Campaign and Political Finance, claiming Mass Values' incorporation date of Sept. 28 — late in the election cycle — raised suspicions and made it a "stealth Super PAC." SHNS

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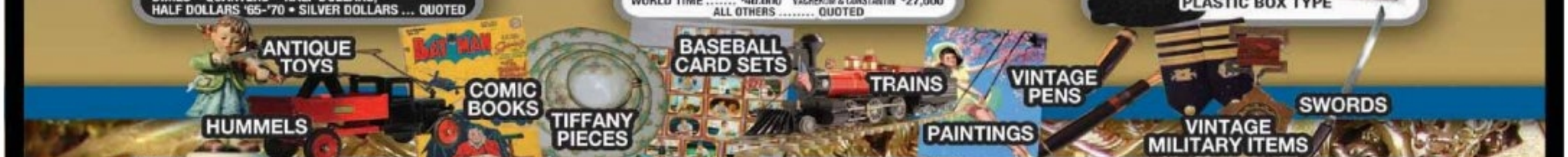

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10 FORTUNE BOULEVARD

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RADISSON PLYMOUTH HARBOR
180 WATER STREET

DARTMOUTH, MA
RESIDENCE INN DARTMOUTH
181 FAUNCE CORNER ROAD

Sandy bears down on coast, brings flooding

Hurricane makes landfall early today in New Jersey • Obama warns residents to take heed of evacuation orders • Storm is 'very, very large'

Tens of millions of people along the U.S. East Coast girded themselves yesterday for Hurricane Sandy, a gigantic storm forecast to assault the densely populated region with battering winds, dangerous flooding and even heavy snowfall.

Sandy, expected to come ashore late today, could deliver a harsh blow to major cities in its target zone, including New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore and Boston. Its center was forecast to strike the New York-New Jersey area and then move inland toward Philadelphia and the rest of Pennsylvania.

President Barack Obama, speaking after a briefing at the federal government's storm response center in Washington, called Sandy a "serious and big storm" and asked residents to heed the orders of state and local authorities to protect themselves from its onslaught.

"It's a very, very large system," National Hurricane Center Director Rick Knabb said. "The storm is going to carve a pretty large swath of bad weather, both water and wind." **REUTERS**

24 Inches of snow could fall in the Appalachian Mountains from West Virginia to Kentucky as a result of Hurricane Sandy.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ President Obama delivers a briefing yesterday afternoon at FEMA headquarters.

NYC closes down subway

New York City suspended its train, subway and bus service last night ahead of Hurricane Sandy, which is expected to bring strong winds and dangerous flooding to the East Coast, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said at a news conference.

"If it turns and moves off, great. Really great. But if not, then we will be prepared for it," Cuomo said.

The service is expected to resume operations about 12 hours after the storm ends, officials said at the news conference.

New York City's Metropolitan Transportation Authority curtailed subway service beginning at 7 p.m., while the bus network shut down by 9 p.m. **REUTERS**

NYSE plans to stay open

U.S. stock exchanges and Wall Street banks were sending employees into Manhattan yesterday to stay in hotels and co-workers' homes, as markets prepare to open for business today even as Hurricane Sandy brings public transportation to a halt.

The New York Stock Exchange has arranged accommodations for essential staff near its Lower Manhattan headquarters, while other employees have been encouraged to work from home or alternate locations, said a person familiar with the situation.

"Everybody on Wall Street has hotels booked for essential personnel," this person said, adding that the stock exchange would need several hundred people, compared to its usual 1,000, on the floor to keep trading going. **REUTERS**

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For more information, contact Tracy Sylven in Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital's Community Health and Wellness Department at 617-983-7451 or via email at tsylven@partners.org.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
9 am – **KICKOFF OF EVENT** with a one-mile fun walk through the Arnold Arboretum (Meet at first floor entrance to begin walk. Free t-shirt to first 40 walkers.)
10 am – Doors open, Mayor Thomas Menino Welcome
11 am – 1 pm – Pat Patriot visit and autographs
12 noon – Boston Fire truck visit

HEALTH TALKS
10:15 am – Dr. Paul Rizzoli - Migraines
11 am – Dr. Steven Chang - Robotic Surgery
12 noon – Kristi Marsh - Author of Little Changes
1 pm – Nancy Oliveria, RD - Is Sugar Toxic?

INTRODUCTORY CLASSES
- free 30 minute beginner classes, open to all
11 am – Tai Chi/QiGong Class by West Roxbury YMCA
12 noon – Yoga Class by Anna McIntosh
1 pm – Family Zumba Class by West Roxbury YMCA

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- Free Adult Flu Shots (first come, first serve)
- Ask a Doctor Booth
- Ask a Pharmacist Booth
- Same Day Mammograms
- Nutrition Education and Smoothie Tasting
- Bike Helmet Fitting and Giveaway (limited, first come, first serve)
- 3D Ultrasounds for Pregnant Women (by appointment, 617-983-7451)
- Activities for Kids
- Health Information Tables and So Much More!

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For a complete list of events and activities visit www.brighamandwomensfaulkner.org

Zoom: It's a car pile-up

"Technically, it's probably the most difficult job I have ever done. It's quite magical how it's turned out."

BODY-PAINTING ARTIST EMMA HACK. HACK, FROM ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA, SPENT 18 HOURS CREATING THE CAR. SHE FAMOUSLY PAINTED SINGERS GOTYE AND KIMBRA FOR THE HIT SONG "SOMEBODY THAT I USED TO KNOW."

Body painting art

Optical illusion of wrecked vehicle

Check out the paint job on this "car." Body-painting artist Emma Hack used 17 naked men and women covered in blue, black and silver paint to make a jigsaw puzzle of a mangled vehicle. The pile of expertly placed bodies is part of a campaign for Australia's Motor Accident Commission to curb speeding. MWN

Artistic method

How she started ... a photo and pencil

Hack began with a photo of a crashed car and planned her project by sketching over it to determine the number of people needed and the position of their contorted bodies. She said: "Some were really obvious, such as the tires, face as side mirror and the front bumper as the arm. Then I started piling up the bodies to create shape." MWN

News in brief

Chinese premier's family deny 'hidden riches' claim

Lawyers representing the family of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao have rejected claims made by the New York Times on Friday that they have accumulated at least $2.7 billion in "hidden riches," Hong Kong media reported yesterday.

The New York Times, citing corporate and regulatory records, reported that Wen's mother, siblings and children had amassed the majority of their wealth since Wen was named Vice Premier in 1998.

In a statement, Bai Tao of the Junhe Law Office and Wang Weidong of the Grandall Law Firm said the wealth "does not exist."

They also denied that Wen had acted improperly or engaged in business activities himself, and said his relatives had not profited in any way from his tenure as premier and had no influence on Wen's "formulation and execution of policies." **REUTERS**

Obama holds slim lead with just 9 days to go

GETTY IMAGES

▶ President Barack Obama, center, shares a beer with customers at the Common Man restaurant in Merrimack, N.H., while campaigning during the weekend.

President Barack Obama has extended his narrow lead over Republican challenger Mitt Romney among likely voters in a race that remains statistically tied nine days before the election, according to a Reuters/Ipsos tracking poll released yesterday.

Obama has a 49 percent to 46 percent edge over Romney, marking a 1 point increase from Saturday but still within the daily online survey's 4 percentage-point credibility interval for likely voters.

Swings could be possible in the remaining days of the campaign, however. Fifteen percent of registered voters say they could change their minds and vote for a different candidate.

The precision of Reuters/Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 4.0 percentage points for likely voters. **REUTERS**

49

Percentage of voters who favor Obama, compared to 46 percent for Romney, according to the latest Reuters/Ipsos tracking poll

Hurricane blows electioneering off course

NASHUA, N.H./KISSIMMEE, FLA. President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney campaigned feverishly in closely contested battleground states but changed travel plans to avoid Hurricane Sandy.

Romney held three rallies in Florida, whose 29 electoral votes are the biggest prize among states considered too close to call.

Romney told supporters in Pensacola that Obama was focusing his campaign on small things, and vowed to win the election, to chants of "10 more days, 10 more days."

"Look into the future and see the debt that's being amassed and say, 'What is right for America?' This is a time of big choices, of big consequence. It's a big election," Romney said.

Obama spent Saturday in New Hampshire, whose four electoral votes could make a difference in the tight race.

"Ten days, New Hampshire, 10 days and you'll be stepping into a voting booth and making a defining choice about the future of our country," the Democratic president said in a speech criticizing Romney's record on taxes and fees as governor of Massachusetts.

New Hampshire is known for its low taxes. **REUTERS**

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Metropolitik

CONN CARROLL
SENIOR EDITORIAL WRITER, THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER

THE POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT

"This is the worst economic recovery America has ever had," "CBS Evening News'" Scott Pelley reported in July. And this past Friday's Gross Domestic Product report from the Commerce Department, showing the U.S. economy grew at an anemic 2 percent in the third quarter, confirmed Pelley's conclusion. Since the Obama recovery began more than three years ago, the economy has grown at the slowest rate of any recovery since World War II.

There are many reasons why President Obama's policies have failed to create an adequate environment for even an average economic recovery. But one of the most important was his decision to embrace a governing blueprint published by a progressive think tank, the Center for American Progress.

Published just days after Obama suffered a historic defeat at the polls in 2010, the CAP's "The Power of the President" report outlined how Obama could keep moving the ball on his progressive agenda without congressional approval.

"In the aftermath of this month's midterm congressional elections, pundits and politicians across the ideological spectrum are focusing on how difficult it will be for President Barack Obama to advance his policy priorities through Congress," CAP President John Podesta wrote in his preface.

Some debate whether the administration should tack to the center and compromise with the new House leadership. As a former White House chief of staff, I believe those to be the wrong preoccupations. President Obama's ability to govern the country as chief executive presents an opportunity to demonstrate strength, resolve, and a capacity to get things done," Podesta concluded.

And "get things done" without Congress is exactly what Obama has done. This week, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., released a new report, titled "The Imperial Presidency," detailing more than 40 separate occasions where Obama has written, rewritten or ignored federal law without any input from Congress.

For example, the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 requires all federal agencies to produce semiannual regulatory agendas in April and October every year. But after businesses freaked out over last year's Environmental Protection Agency agenda – an agenda that self-reported more than $130 billion in annual regulatory costs – Obama's EPA failed to issue either of the required regulatory plans this year. As a result of this illegal omission, businesses now lack the information necessary to make investment decisions. Regulatory uncertainty translates to less business investment. Less business investment means fewer jobs. That's a major reason why Obama is still a net job-killer as president. U.S. businesses employ 61,000 fewer Americans today than they did when Obama took office, even though the working-age population has increased by 9 million.

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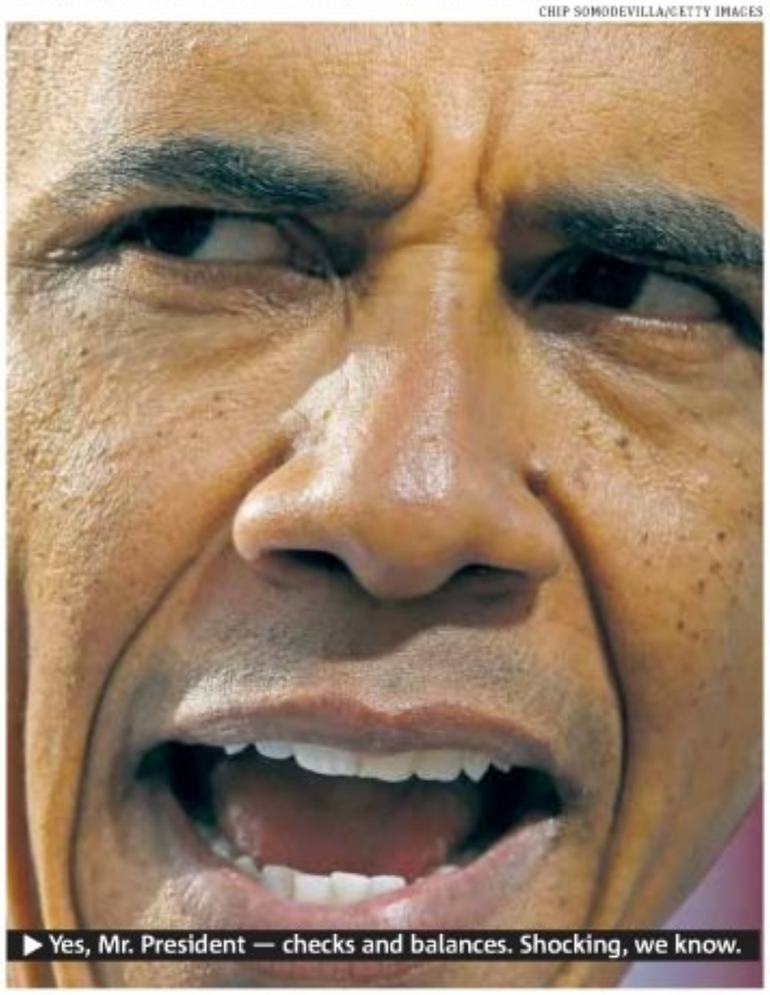

▶ Yes, Mr. President — checks and balances. Shocking, we know.

Quoted

And "get things done" without Congress is exactly what Obama has done. This week, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., released a new report ... detailing more than 40 separate occasions where Obama written ... or ignored federal law without any input from Congress.

Even when issuing its regulations, Obama's EPA often fails to follow the law. In striking down an EPA rule regulating power plants earlier this year, a federal court said that Obama's EPA "seems reluctant to acknowledge any textual limits on its authority under" the Clean Air Act.

Conservatives are not the only ones who have documented Obama's assault on the rule of law and its impact on the U.S. economy. Every year, the World Economic Forum issues a Global Competitiveness Report, ranking more than 100 countries on a number of key economic indicators. When Obama was sworn into office, the United States was ranked as the best country in the world to do business. After just four years under Obama, the U.S. has dropped to seventh. The report specifically cites the collapse in the rule of law in explaining this decline.

Before Obama was president, the U.S. ranked 40th in "favoritism in decisions of government officials." Today, the U.S. ranks 59th, a fall of 19 places. Before Obama was president, the U.S. ranked 50th for lowest "burden of government regulation." Today, the U.S. ranks 76th, a fall of 26 places. Before Obama was president, the U.S. ranked 28th in "transparency of government policy making." Today, the U.S. ranks 56th, a fall of 28 places.

Our nation was founded on the idea that freedom could only be preserved if a strong executive branch of government was checked by an equally strong legislative branch. By choosing to assert his executive power over Congress at every turn, Obama has weakened our freedom. High unemployment and weak economic growth are direct results.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Send 100-word submissions to letters@metro.us.

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Affirmative Action on trial: What it means for students

Fisher v. University of Texas case may change the college admissions process ▶ Legal experts weigh in

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Protesters held signs in front of the U.S. Supreme Court earlier this month in Washington, D.C.

As the Supreme Court reevaluates Affirmative Action in the Fisher v. University of Texas case, high school and college students are left to wonder how this could affect their lives in the coming years. The case — brought on by Abigail Fisher, a white student denied admission to the University of Texas at Austin — challenges Grutter v. Bollinger, a landmark 2003 case that upheld affirmative action in the college admissions process.

The most drastic possible change would occur if the court overturned Grutter v. Bollinger, thereby eliminating Affirmative Action as we know it. This would make it unlawful for schools to take race into consideration at all in the admissions process. Currently, colleges may use race as "one of many factors" in creating a diverse student body. With a decision likely in May or June, this could cause some upheaval in the admissions process for 2013, as schools adjust to the new law.

> **"If the court overrules Grutter, I think you're going to see a shift to a very explicit focus on socioeconomic diversity as the key factor in admission."**
> DARYL LAPP

"If the court overrules Grutter, I think you're going to see a shift to a very explicit focus on socioeconomic diversity as the key factor in admission," says Daryl Lapp, a Boston-based attorney who filed a brief on behalf of Northeastern University in the Grutter case.

The result would have no bearing on the status of current college students, though some think it could affect them indirectly. "If the court overturns Grutter, I believe that students are going to see a more uniform — less diverse — student body coming up behind them," says Allan Van Fleet, a Houston-based attorney, who filed a friend of the court brief in the Fisher case.

Another possibility is for the court to uphold Affirmative Action in a general sense, but find UT at fault in the way they applied it. It's hard to say how this would affect students, but it would likely cause a few narrow changes in the way applications are processed.

And still yet, the court could uphold Grutter and, further, find the UT method lawful, which could encourage schools to more actively consider race in constructing a student body.

Many experts are predicting a split decision; a tie would uphold the current law. But, says Lapp, "with this court, I wouldn't bet money on any outcome."

BRUCE WALSH
bruce.walsh@metro.us

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MATHU ANDERSEN

▶ RuPaul hosts "RuPaul's All Stars Drag Race," airing Mondays at 9 p.m. on Logo.

Working it, again

▶ Queens return for another shot at glory on 'RuPaul's All Stars Drag Race' ▶ RuPaul on dream jobs, the contestants and politics as usual

After four seasons of fierce competition — with a fiercely loyal cult following — drag superstar RuPaul is giving 12 former contestants another shot at glory with "RuPaul's All Stars Drag Race." But don't expect the outspoken host and judge to admit to any favorites.

So what's new this season?
Well, obviously, we have the all-stars, who are basically the Avengers of drag. These are the biggest and the best. They are avenging the fact that these are the girls who did not win the top prize, so they've got something to prove. Even the weakest competitor has an incredible story to tell, because these are kids who come from backgrounds where they've been ostracized and shut out, and they've persevered. We all live in a patriarchal, masculine culture, and doing this kind of work, to go against the grain like this, is nothing short of heroic.

Do you have any favorites among the all-stars?
I'm the mommy, I cannot play favorites. Of course, I have favorites, but I can't tell anybody. [Laughs] I have the best job in the world. I've always loved queens, I've always loved people who dance to the beat of a different drummer, and I've found myself in the best job in the world. If you really got to see what I do throughout the day, I love creativity. I love to take something apart and rebuild it and see what makes it work. And when we're producing this show, before the cameras roll, we're putting together an ensemble of creative people to be our competitors, but we're also putting together these challenges that are really kind of life challenges in disguise — wrapped up in pretty, funny packages. And also I get to usher these incredible entertainers into the big time, because our show is seen in 25 different countries around the world.

You've always been one of the strongest voices in bringing drag culture into mainstream culture. Do you feel like you're still fighting that battle?
Honey, I wouldn't call it a battle. I ain't fighting nobody. I do things that I enjoy and if people want to come along for the ride, right on.

On the election

Could you come up with drag personas for Barack Obama and Mitt Romney for us?
You know, politics is so boring to me — Washington politics is so boring to me. The politics of the heart, social politics and emotional politics, that's all interesting. But Washington politics, those people don't believe what they're saying. They're saying things just so people will vote for them. Smart people don't think that way, and these are smart people. They don't think that way, and so it's hard for me to get interested in that.

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myentertainment

Gerard Butler's near death experience

On the job training is par for the course when it comes to acting, but this Scottish actor got more than he bargained for while surfing on the set of 'Chasing Mavericks' What served as inspiration for taking the role

Gerard Butler had only the most basic appreciation for surfing before he set to work on "Chasing Mavericks" — and that's putting it mildly. "I had surfed about three or four times in my life," Butler admits. The Scottish actor knew he'd have to amp up his game if he wanted to properly capture the essence of surfing great Frosty Hesson, who taught teenager Jay Moriarity (played by newcomer Jonny Weston in the film) to ride Mavericks, the most dangerous waves in the country.

Not one to shy away from a challenge, Butler dove right in — and paid for it with an epic wipeout. "Jonny Weston and I both surfed Mavericks. It was where I was taken down," Butler says with a coy smile. Getting pulled under a wall of water, his admiration for what these athletes do only intensified. "It taught me a lesson. It's not a pleasant experience," he offers.

Quoted

"It's incredibly meditative and spiritual. I found the whole experience really transformative. When you get up on that wave and become one with it, you just become one with nature."

BUTLER ON HIS NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE SURFING WHILE FILMING 'CHASING MAVERICKS'

Even though that moment sent him to the hospital, Butler marveled at the sport's ability to foster a Zen-like feeling in the surfers as they ride these monsters of water. "It's incredibly meditative and spiritual," Butler explains. "I found the whole experience really transformative. When you get up on that wave and become one with it, you just become one with nature."

The second challenge facing the actor was portraying a real-life individual, and Butler wanted to do Hesson justice as a complex individual. "He's a very philosophical character, and he's well-read. So I wanted to play that guy who enjoys that, but at the same time, he harbors a lot of pain," Butler says. "There's the person you experience, but he also now knows the stories being told about him." It was an effort that mirrored his last film, "Machine Gun Preacher," also about a real, larger-than-life personality. "I experienced the same with Sam Childers," Butler explains. "They become used to telling their story to people who are interested in telling their story, rather than the person who was living the story."

JOEL AMOS
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20TH CENTURY FOX

▶ Gerard Butler and his "Chasing Mavericks" co-star Jonny Weston head in from the sea.

Why he headed for 'Surf City'

Now that Butler has the experience under his belt, he looks back fondly on the moment he knew that "Chasing Mavericks" would be his next film — which happened to coincide with a completely different kind of lesson.

"I was learning to fly a helicopter along the coast. I saw all the guys on surfboards. I was like, 'What am I thinking? I need to get a place in Malibu and I need to take this movie and learn how to surf!'" Butler says. "I touched down and called them and said, 'Let's do it!'"

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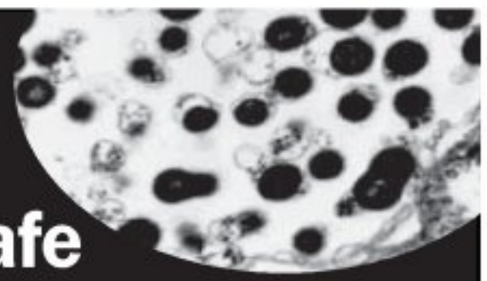

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▶ Just because they have throngs of screaming fans doesn't mean you're any less than them.

Not only is this social comparison not normal, but it's also unhealthy. Standards and trends are set, expectations created and hence, there's the perpetual, exhausting quest to be like someone else. It's all because that's what we think we're supposed to do. Our expectations are in part based on what we see around us. For instance, we might look toward celebrities to form a standard of how we think we should look, or the style of clothes we should wear. In your case, you see highly accomplished people and feel inferior and as though you should be doing what they do. Expectations are also formed by pressure from family. For example, Mom and Dad might pressure you to get married and have a child.

Though it is impressive to have published a book or amassed a fortune by age 30, these people don't represent the norm and are truly outliers, and therefore do not make for a good comparison. Motives that are internally driven are far more powerful than those that come from external forces.

Set goals based on your standards and expectations, not those of others. Focus on your own accomplishments and the "pretty good life all around" that you have. Trust me: There are countless 30-somethings who would be thrilled to have "a decent job" and "an awesome boyfriend."

*– **Jonathan Alpert** is a licensed psychotherapist. His book, "Be Fearless: Change Your Life in 28 Days," is available now. E-mail him your questions at jonathan@jonathanalpert.com.*

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

my**wellbeing**

Yoga pose of the week

Half Moon Pose

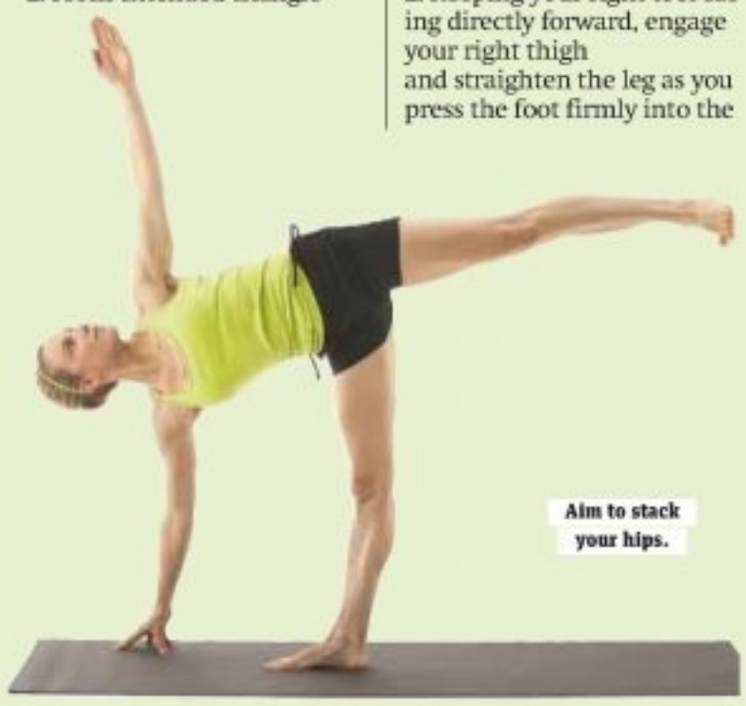
Get into it:

1. From extended triangle pose on your right side, place your left hand on your hip, bend your right knee slightly and slide your right hand forward, about 12 inches in front of the right pinky toe. You can come on to fingertips or place the hand on a block.

2. Keeping your right toes facing directly forward, engage your right thigh and straighten the leg as you press the foot firmly into the floor. Simultaneously lift the left leg parallel to the floor. Try stacking your hips one on top of each other and extend through the left heel to keep the raised leg strong. Be careful not to lock the standing knee and make sure the kneecap is straight forward, not turned inward.

3. Spin your torso towards the left and lengthen through your sides. Lift the inner ankle of the standing foot strongly upward, as if drawing energy from the floor.

4. Hold for 30 seconds to a minute and repeat on the other side.



Aim to stack your hips.

Benefits:

- Improves coordination and sense of balance
- Strengthens the abdomen, ankles, thighs, buttocks and spine.
- Helps relieve stress.

— Kristin McGee is a celebrity yoga & Pilates instructor. Visit her website at www.kristinmcgee.com.

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myjobs

Drinking and networking: What you can safely sip

When it comes to drinking with potential connections and current coworkers, all cocktails are not created equal ▶ What to order

COMSTOCK

▶ What you order can contribute to first impressions.

A networking event can put you in touch with everyone from hiring managers and recruiters to company heads, all of whom might be a valuable lead for a new job.

Like any smart job seeker, you'll look your most professional with well-maintained and tasteful attire, every hair in place and shoes that pair style with comfort — you can't network when your feet hurt.

However, you may have overlooked an important accessory that can send even more signals than your wardrobe: the drink in your hand.

Beer

Beer is a safe bet. It's conventional, relaxed and has the right amount of "after-work" feeling to it. If you're at an event for several hours, no one will begrudge you having more than one.

Tip: Be sure to ask for a glass (preferably not a plastic cup) and avoid anything with a lime wedge. You're there to make connections, not pickle citrus fruit.

Martinis

A martini perfectly captures the goal of a networking function: making a strong impression in a short time.

However, you may find it hard to close a promising conversation when you can't find your business cards — or your wallet, or your shoes, for that matter.

Tip: While prefix-tinis (e.g., crantini or appletini) and other drinks served in martini glasses lack the power of the traditional martini, it's best to steer clear of the conical glass entirely.

Mixed drinks

Since these drinks are small in size, it's deceptively easy to wind up with a glass full of ice, which can be distracting, particularly if you find yourself in a crowd with no table in sight.

If this is your particular poison, ask for a watered-down drink in a highball glass, not a squat rocks glass. You want to be sure your drink has staying power.

Tip: Seriously consider the breath-effects of particular mixed drinks. Rum-and-coke breath will make your "hello" sound an awful lot like "goodbye."

Wine

Wine is the popular go-to drink for networking functions. You'll avoid the bloated feeling that can come with beer.

Tip: White wine is always a safer bet, as red wine has a nasty reputation for staining: fabric, teeth, moral character.

Shots

Don't. Just don't. **Tip:** Don't.

ELIAS DA SILVA-POWELL/ TALENTEGG.COM

— TalentEgg.com is a job board and career resource for college students and recent grads.

Trends in education

Cooking up a culinary career

BRAND X PICTURES

These days, everyone's a foodie. But if you're looking to work in the restaurant business — especially behind the line — it's going to take more than an Instagram feed of your picture-perfect plates.

Established chefs will advise you to spend some time really thinking about this career choice and getting your hands dirty in kitchens. While a culinary degree certainly isn't necessary to be a top chef, it can be helpful. "Culinary education builds a foundation of skills that you otherwise may never acquire. It also teaches discipline and respect — two things that are key to any chef's success," says Larry Leibowitz, director of culinary operations at Guckenheimer.

School also provides the opportunity to learn in slower-paced kitchens. "Culinary school was a vital part of my education," says Simone Apostoli, chef at The Bowery Kitchen in New York City. "You also learn as much, if not more, by surrounding yourself with successful chefs, being a sponge for knowledge and also through real life applications."

If you do decide to enroll in a school, make sure that the one you choose is keeping up-to-date with the latest trends, something that's essential in the service industry. Chef Francesco Martorella teaches culinary skills at Star Career Academy. "We offer a modern syllabus to give students a versatile learning experience," he says. "The students have improved with all the exposure of [Food Network], the Internet and the popularity of being a chef."

JULIA WEST

psg

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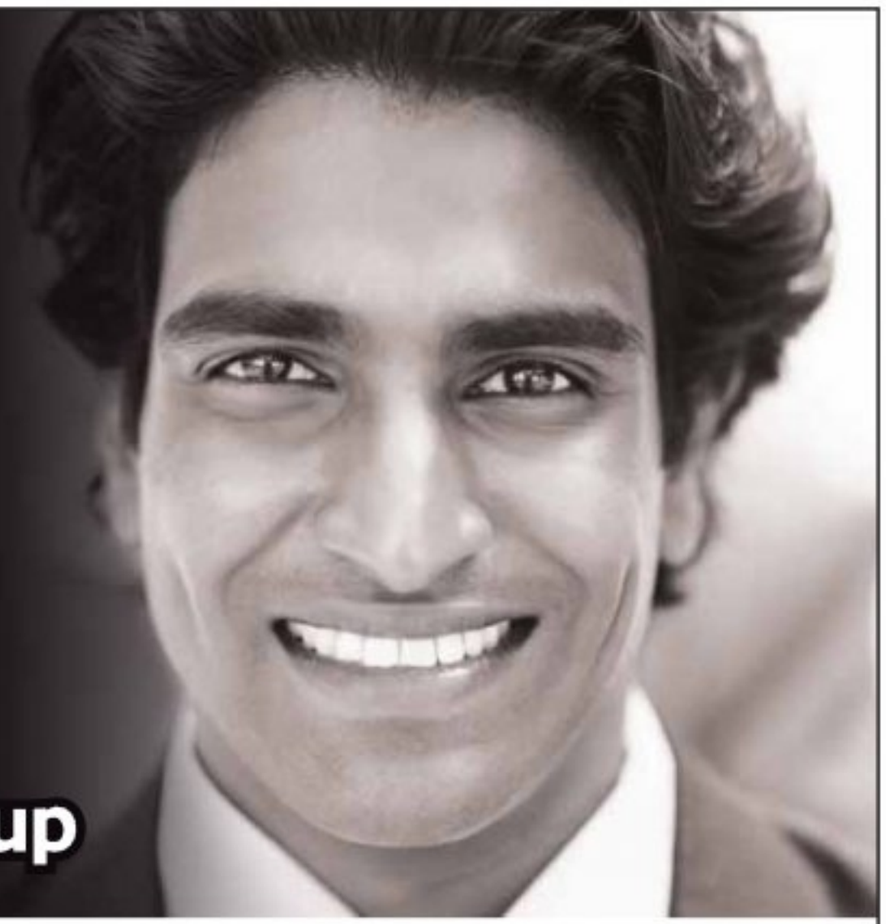

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Our client is looking for a Mac genius for this desktop and systems support role. Casual, fun environment where you will be working with nice people.

PSG job postings are either actual positions we had available at the time of posting or representative of positions we expect to fill. Send us your resume or give us a call so that we can help you find a job you'll love. As one of the area's largest staffing firms, we helped almost 5,000 people find jobs last year so chances are good that we can help you too.

***for qualified candidates,* please send resume to: info@psgstaffing.com**

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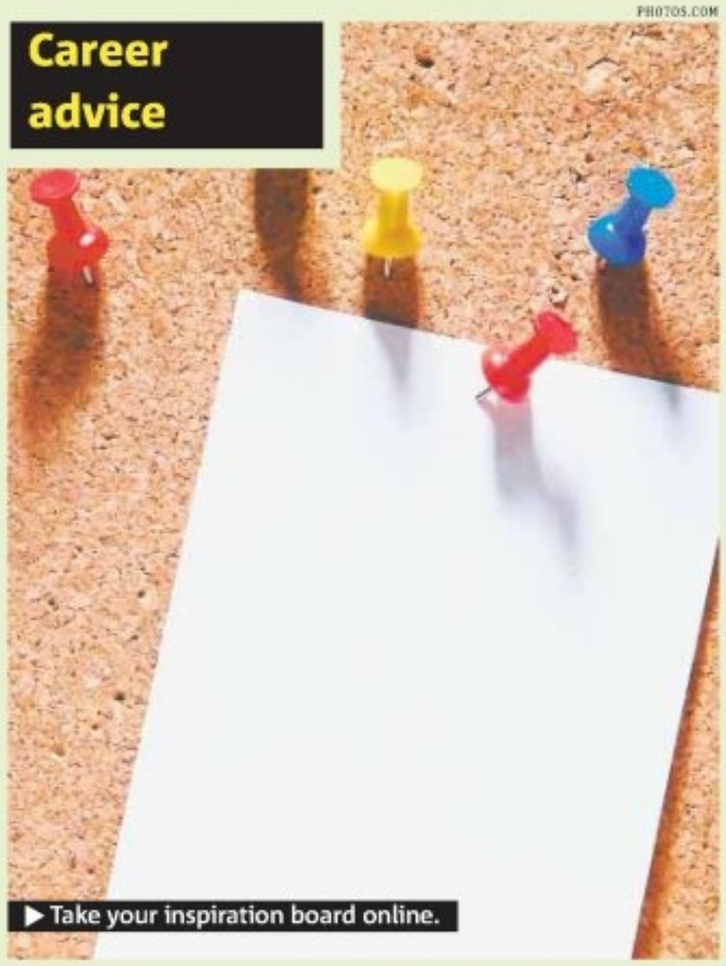
Career advice



PHOTOS.COM

▶ Take your inspiration board online.

Pin your way to a new job

Sure, Pinterest is great for finding recipes, wedding dresses and learning how to make your own deodorant, but this visually-driven social media can also help you find a job.

In an age where professional Facebook pages and Twesumes are becoming regular additions to job applications, having a professional Pinterest account can help you stand out from the rest of the online crowd.

For those who aren't familiar with the site, Pinterest allows its users to set up an online page and post original and shared content in the form of photos, much like you would pin something to a corkboard. The photo layout of the site makes it easy for readers to get a lot of information in a small amount of space. It can be a great way to showcase your skills to potential employers, especially if you're in creative or marketing fields.

"The key to figuring out how to present effectively on Pinterest is to present visually even for nonvisual stuff," says marketing expert Christopher Penn.

Instead of just telling people you're gutsy, pin a photo of you skydiving to your Pinterest resume board with the caption "Skydiving? Risk taker." That's exactly what Harvard business school graduate Jeanne Hwang did. Jeanne used her board to showcase her previous jobs, her interests and even a picture of her puppy.

While you can, and should, get creative with what goes on your board, play it straight with your headlines. Titling your boards "Résumé" or "Portfolio" makes it clear what the purpose of your board is and makes it easier to find if employers are searching around. Just like with your real résumé, prioritize posts. Put the most important info at the top and organize your board in a logical fashion.

ISHANI NATH/ TALENTEGG.COM

— TalentEgg.com is a job board and online career resource for college students and recent graduates.

Get social with your job search

▶ The next step is to make your new media profile more social. Interact with brands and companies that you'd like to work for on Pinterest. Like their content, provoke discussion in the comments section and repin their posts to your boards under a designated "Companies I'd like to work for" board. Organizations will get notifications for your actions on their site, putting you on their radar.

Wage gap for U.S. women endures as jobs increase

GOODSHOOT

▶ Even if you bring the same skills to the table, your paycheck might be different.

The number of U.S. women employed full-time grew after the worst recession in seven decades even as the male workforce shrank. The number of dollars in their paychecks relative to men's hardly rose at all.

Women earned about 79 cents for every $1 made by men, according to the 2009-11 American Community Survey, a poll of 9 million households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. That was up from 78 cents in the 2007-09 survey. The data, released last week, showed 680,300 more women and 1.9 million fewer men were working than during the previous three-year period.

79¢

Women earn just 79 cents for every $1 their male peers make, according to new Census Bureau data.

The report underscores the persistent gender pay gap, independent of occupation, experience and education, an issue highlighted in the race for the White House. President Barack Obama has touted his support for pay-equity laws, and Republican Mitt Romney has tried to cut into Obama's lead among female voters by blaming his policies for poverty among women. "Assumptions about women's roles and men's roles are stubborn and pernicious," Lisa Maatz, director of public policy and government relations for the Washington-based American Association of University Women, said in a telephone interview. "There is still absolutely a sense that women are the caretakers and so they are less-valuable employees."

At the current rate of change, the average year-round, full-time female employee would reach pay parity with the typical male worker in about 2063.

The lone exception

▶ Women made more than men in only one of 247 major, full-time occupations tracked by the Census Bureau in the last two American Community Surveys: Females who were transportation, storage and distribution managers reported 2009-11 median earnings of $52,435, about $1.02 for every $1 earned by a man doing the same job.

Realtors hit hard

The collapse of the nation's real estate market was hard on both genders. Male real estate brokers and dealers had their median pay drop $2,920 to $51,106, the steepest decline of any occupation for men. Women in the same job lost a median $3,037 to fall to $38,006, the second-sharpest drop for females.

FRANK BASS AND JENNIFER OLDHAM/BLOOMBERG

Don't just practice, 'Practice Perfect'

Author and teacher Doug Lemov made quite a splash with his 2010 book, "Teach Like a Champion: 49 Techniques That Put Students on the Path to College." While researching it, Lemov spent thousands of hours observing effective teachers as they practiced their craft. He soon discovered recurring techniques that every effective teacher he observed seemed to use in some shape or form.

In March of that year, Lemov was featured on the cover of the New York Times Magazine. His calendar has been jampacked ever since, as he leads "Champion" workshops across the country.

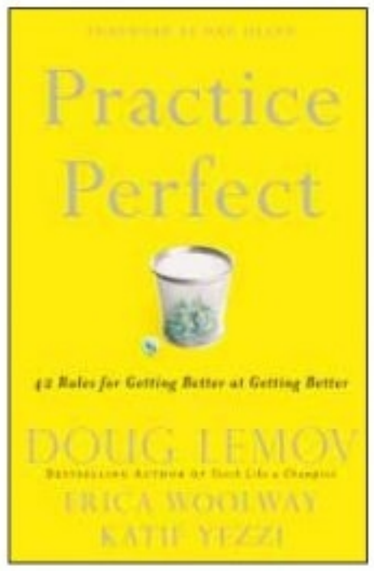
"Just because you understand what to do, doesn't mean you're able to do it."
LEMOV

But now he wants to bring his strategies to a wider audience. In his latest, "Practice Perfect: 42 Rules for Getting Better at Getting Better," Lemov and co-authors Erica Woolway and Katie Yezzi examine the science behind getting better at virtually any aspect of work.

"In working with teachers, we discovered an immense difference between get it and do it. It's all about practice," explains Lemov. "Just because you understand what to do, doesn't mean you're able to do it. But then we discovered that this applied to almost every profession, so we decided to try to figure out what it is about practice that makes us better."

And the results may surprise you. As Lemov found, practice doesn't always improve performance. In fact, it sometimes diminishes it.

"All through our society are examples of people who practice things all the time, who don't get better. Practice is different from doing something over and over," he says. "Practice is doing it over and over, intentionally, breaking it down into pieces, pulling out aspects that you want to get better at, and integrating feedback and modeling. You've got to engineer a plan to make that time valuable."



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Job Openings of the Week

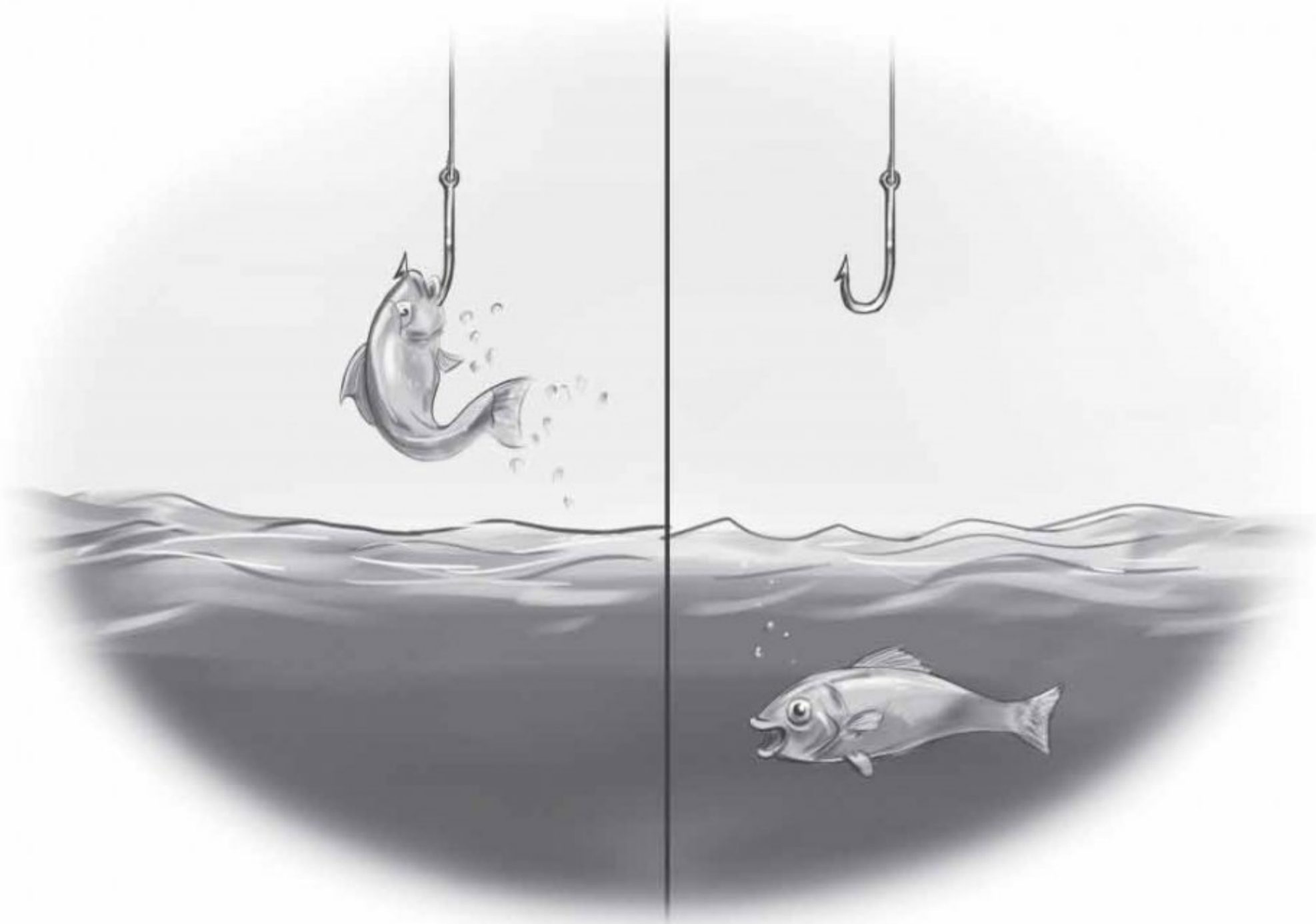
Office Assistant – Our client, a growing non-profit firm in the Boston Metro Area, is looking to hire an Office Assistant/Administrative Assistant to assist with filing, copying, data entry and much more. This is a dynamic position for the Office Assistant who is organized and committed to the profession. The ideal candidate will be able to operate basic office equipment and complete general office work. Proficiency in Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel is preferred. $11-13/hour.

Marketing Assistant - OfficeTeam of Cambridge is looking for a Marketing Assistant to help with a special project. Our client needs a Marketing Assistant who can assemble marketing materials, create and complete mail merges as well as provide general marketing and mailroom assistance. The Marketing Assistant will be working extensively with Microsoft Word and Excel, high proficiency in both is a must. The project will be for the next 2-3 weeks with a possibility of extension based on performance. $12-14/hour.

Front Desk Coordinator – A large financial firm is ready to hire a Front Desk Coordinator to manage their lobby area. This will include greeting and directing all visitors, including vendors, clients, job candidates and customers. The successful Front Desk Coordinator will also handle special administrative projects, as well as overflow work from department and executive assistants. Incoming phone call management will be required, so experience with multi-line phone systems is preferred. Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work well with others required. $12-14/hour.

Office Manager - OfficeTeam is working with a renowned Engineering firm in the Chestnut Hill area looking for an Office Manager. The Office Manager will be performing basic office duties such as answering phones, filing, emailing, scanning, copying and sorting & distributing mail. The Office Manager will also we responsible for web-reporting, transcription, and calendar maintenance and appointment scheduling. Candidates must be proficient in Microsoft Excel and able to create spreadsheets, charts and tables. Previous experience within an Engineering or Legal setting is preferred. $18-22/hour.

To apply to any of these positions please send your resume to jesse.murray@officeteam.com with the subject: Metro Ad or call us at (617) 951-0036



"off the hook"

You may not understand everything kids say.

But that's ok. You don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent. Because kids in foster care don't need perfection. They need you. AdoptUsKids.org

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Letters

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Undecided voters need reality check

RE: "GIVE SOME HONOR AND CREDIT TO UNDECIDED VOTERS" (METRO, OCT. 26-28) News columnist Tom Foreman wrote very movingly in defense of undecided voters. They care deeply, they are more informed about the issues, more aware of the candidates positions. They sound like the A list of American voters, have more concern for the impact of their vote than we partisan party faithful.

That looks very good on paper, however, since their "problem" with President Obama is that "he is not very good at the job." I would counter by saying, perhaps it has escaped their notice that for the past four years, the GOP has been the party of NO. Everything that the president has tried to do, from the auto industry bailout, despite the fact of the thousands of jobs it saved, the affordable care act, which would force the insurance industry to put and end to gouging the public with enormous insurance premiums, to spending money to defend our embassies, the GOP has mostly voted against anything he has tried to do. I'm sorry, but I am not at all impressed with their excuses for still being undecided. They seem to be blissfully unaware of the political climate in D.C. since the president took the oath in 2008.

RACHEL GARBER, VIA E-MAIL

Undecided put off no-win decisions

RE: "GIVE SOME HONOR AND CREDIT TO UNDECIDED VOTERS" (METRO, OCT. 26-28) I was glad to see that Tom Foreman understands the psychology of the undecided voters. Yes, we take our right to vote seriously; no, we aren't particularly impressed with Mr. Obama's job performance nor the shifting rhetoric of Mr. Romney. Moreover, we wonder why people care about our vote every four years, as we are fairly sure those partisan faithful aren't concerned with our overall happiness as American citizens. So many candidates will say anything to win that we regard the two-party system as bread and circuses for false promises and unrealistic assertions. I will vote on Election Day, but I will withhold my decision until I walk into the booth. No one has to remind me that voting is my political right.

SUSAN BERTOLINO, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Obama is still the best in the West

RE: "INDEPENDENCE DOESN'T COME WITH A NANNY ATTACHED" (METRO, OCT. 25) I'm not sure where letter writer John McLaughlin was getting his results from regarding the last three debates between Obama and Romney, but my score card has it 2 out of 3 in favor of Obama. And the idea as he calls it "the liberal bias media" is just a scapegoat for a sub-par performance on Mitt Romney's part for failing to debate foreign policy credibility in a realistic world. And on that four years of so-called failure is also a misguided notion. Now although Obama didn't achieve all his objectives, he did achieve some, one in which he saved many jobs in the auto industry and repaid the debt, and another is by ordering the capture of the mastermind behind the 9/11 attacks. These are accomplishments and anyone who can't see that simply choose not to.

JONATHAN PERRY, VIA E-MAIL

Horoscope

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Be extremely tactful with all your one-on-one relationships, especially those that feature a comfortable rapport. You could unintentionally say something way out of line.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Some big responsibilities you've been successfully sweeping under the rug could come up for air. Once they're out, they could get nasty.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Someone you know only casually could make a play for your friends. Sharing friendships is one thing, but crossing you out of the picture is another.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** You have exceptional leadership qualities, but don't become too self-serving. Victory will be far more gratifying if you include everyone involved.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** You naturally wouldn't like it if someone put you in a position to have to defend everything you say. Bear this in mind should a friend make a statement that you disagree with.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Although you're in a favorable cycle for joint endeavors, there could be conditions attached. Any colleague must be able to offer as much as you can.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** When it comes to a matter of mutual concern in which you and another are diametrically opposed, a compromise is required. Be the first to propose a solution.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** A weightier problem than you originally anticipated may fall to you. If someone for whom you're responsible fails to take care of something, it'll be left to you to do the job.

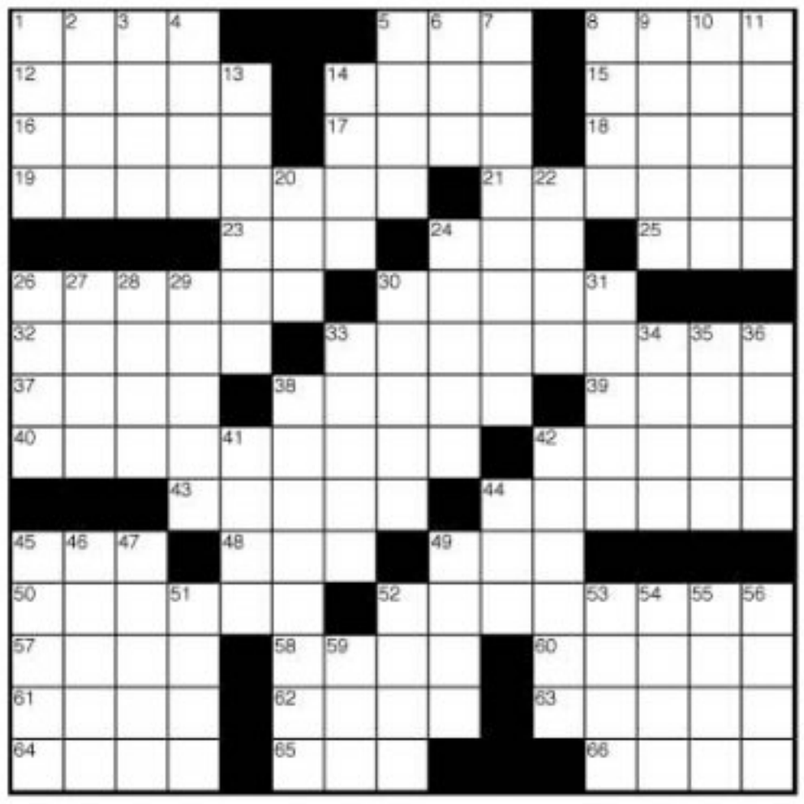
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Even though you're likely to be a welcome addition to a social gathering, don't be the last to leave. Head for the door before your host or hostess starts to yawn.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** You'll have to be methodical, bold and organized if you hope to achieve any kind of important objective. If you don't endow yourself with these qualities, it isn't likely you'll succeed.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Avoid the company of friends or associates who have a tendency to impose their views on others. Your tolerance for self-appointed know-it-alls is slightly above zero.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Take extra pains to manage your resources as prudently as possible. Later, when it becomes time to pay off these obligations, they could hinder you at just the wrong moment.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL



Across
1 Bug repellent
5 Hasty escape
8 Hindu — range
12 Talk-show name
14 Big celebration
15 "Sting like — —"
16 Bete —
17 Rock fissure
18 Caroler's tune
19 Vitamin C acid
21 Dream up
23 Dinny's rider
24 He's on first
25 Freight weight
26 Caught a glimpse of
30 Pizza feature
32 Reddish horses
33 Brushy thicket
37 Yawn
38 Brief upturns
39 Early movie dog
40 Low-key fireworks
42 Potomac, for one
43 Nerd
44 Swigged down
45 Ally opposite
48 Paneling wood
49 Theorem ender
50 Make up
52 Funny
57 Ooze out
58 Glimmering
60 Jousting weapon
61 Take on cargo
62 Meddlesome
63 Something extra
64 Arctic transport
65 Mdse.
66 List extender (2 wds.)

Down
1 Lady of Spain
2 Homer's forte
3 Speed-skater — Heiden
4 Polynesian staple
5 Secular
6 Melmac visitor
7 Goes with
8 Carol — of "Taxi"
9 Wolf-pack member
10 Deal with (2 wds.)
11 Wife of Menelaus
13 Hoagies
14 Good hold
20 Physique
22 Civil rights activist -- Parks
24 Outer garments
26 Joule fractions
27 Grease cutter
28 Storybook bear
29 Lying still
30 Bird sound
31 Nature path
33 Ring up sales
34 Host's request
35 Fit to — —
36 Shortening
38 Meadow sounds
41 Tae — do
42 Mr. Nureyev
44 Mineral find
45 Fixes a tooth
46 Shaquille of the NBA
47 Find a loophole
49 Jetty
51 Barely scraped by
52 Pianist Dame Myra —
53 Some steaks
54 Step — — (hurry)
55 West Coast sch.
56 Broker's advice
59 Pentagon grp.

6		2						9
			5			2	8	
	7	9	1			5	6	
			3	7	1			
		6		5		7		
			6	2	9			
	3	5			4	6	2	
	8	4			3			
2						8		4

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

		9				7		4
1				8		6		3
	7		3			1		
		2		3				1
		7	1	4	9	8		
9				6		4		
		3			4		1	
7		1		5				6
2		6				3		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Solution to weekend's crossword

A	S	H		B	R	E	A	M			C	A	M	O
S	P	A		E	A	R	L	Y		T	O	N	E	D
W	I	N	D	S	W	E	P	T		I	N	T	R	O
A	R	G	O	T			S	H	A	G	G	I	E	R
N	E	S	T	I	N	G		S	U	R	E			
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3

In the news

Bobby V chatter
Former Red Sox manager Bobby Valentine stood by his comments that David Ortiz "decided not to play anymore" toward the end of the 2012 season.

"What I said was a statement of fact," Valentine told the Boston Globe. "At that point, there was nothing for David to play for or to risk his career. I merely said what was true, that David stopped playing."

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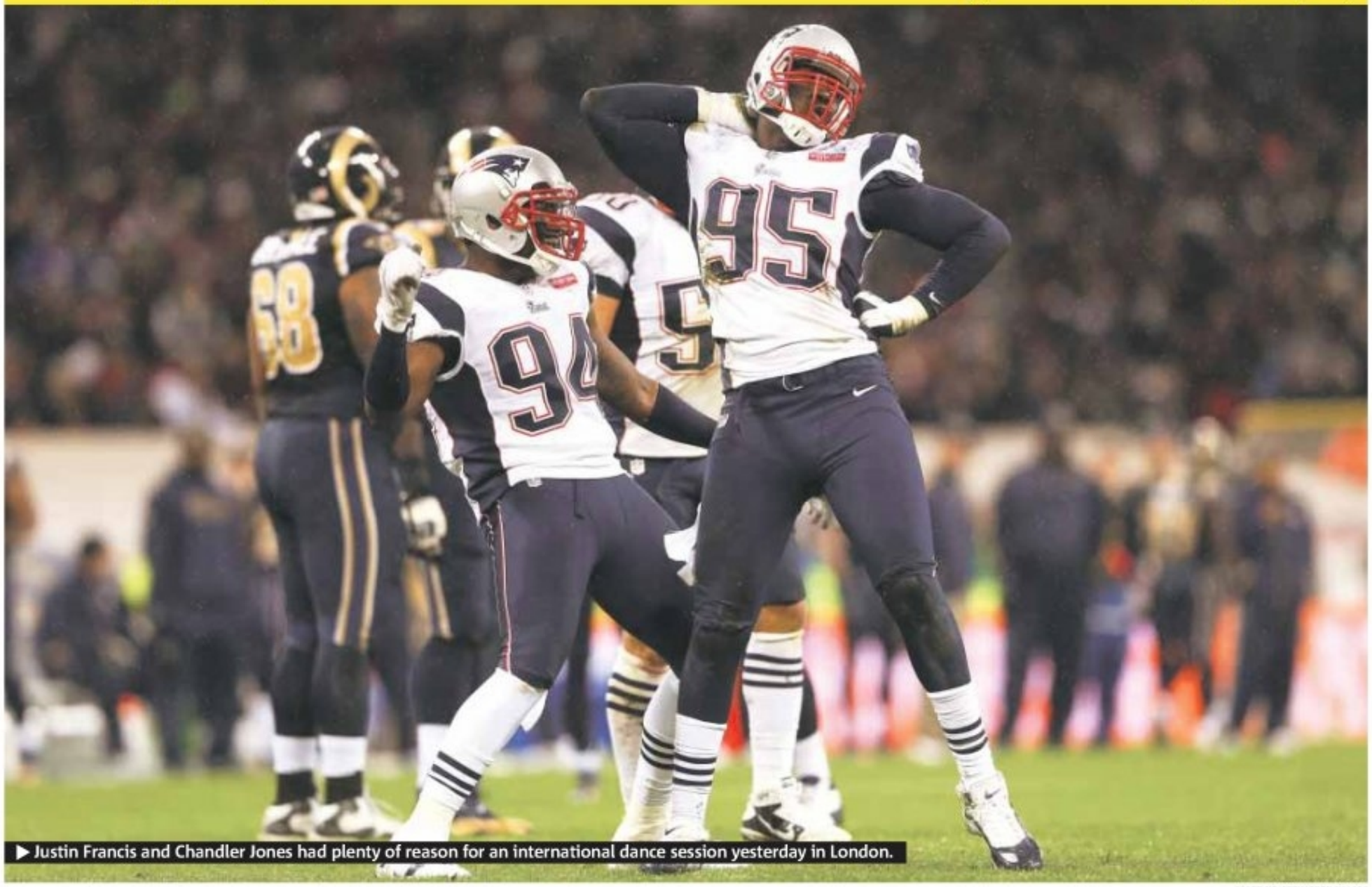
Patriots 45 | Rams 7 **Sunday, Nov. 11: vs. Bills, 1 p.m. (CBS)**



▶ Justin Francis and Chandler Jones had plenty of reason for an international dance session yesterday in London.

SCOTT HEAVEY/GETTY IMAGES

Internationally known

Patriots spank Rams in London with best showing of season ◐ All is right in Pats Land, with 5-3 record heading into bye week ◐ AFC East leaders don't play again until Nov. 11

Three things we learned in the Patriots' 45-7 pounding of the Rams in London:

1 FULL THROTTLE
The game couldn't have started off worse for New England: St. Louis scored an opening-drive touchdown in just 2:35 to take an early 7-0 lead. To make matters worse, it came via a 50-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Sam Bradford to receiver Chris Givens. New England could have panicked, but instead it was the opposite. Tom Brady and Stevan Ridley led the Pats on a 78-yard drive of their own right after, evening up the score on a Brady to Brandon Lloyd 12-yard touchdown midway though the first quarter. As you can see by the final score, 45-7, they never looked back.

2 PASSING THE TEST
Nobody benefits more from Patriots scoring drives than punter Zoltan Mesko. On Sunday, it looked like he may not have had to make a single punt. The Patriots' first six drives ended like this: Lloyd touchdown catch, Shane Vereen touchdown run, Rob Gronkowski touchdown catch, Ridley touchdown run, Lloyd touchdown catch, Stephen Gostkowski field goal. It wasn't until the 2:28 mark of the third quarter when the Rams received their first punt, a touchback, from Mesko. He punted once more in the fourth quarter. The moral of the story is that the Patriots' offense was clicking on all cylinders, the way everybody thought it should.

3 ALL IS WELL ... FOR NOW
It's been a very up-and-down season for the Patriots, but there's no doubting the fact that they head into their Week 9 bye on a high note – perhaps the highest of the season. Not only did the offense look good, but the Pats only allowed 205 passing yards to Bradford. The coaching staff lives on the "just trying to improve every week" saying, and they can actually look themselves in the mirror this time and say that they are, in fact, improving. Now the team will get a few days off (and try to find a plane back to New England) before they start to prepare for the Bills at home on Nov. 11.

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

NFL Roundup

With Hurricane Sandy barreling in on the East Coast, the NFL saw some offensive explosions ahead of the storm yesterday:

▶ **Steelers 27, Redskins 12**
The Steelers improved to 3-0 at home in their convincing win. Pittsburgh's defense was able to contain RG3, holding him to only 177 yards passing and 8 yards rushing.

▶ **Lions 28, Seahawks 24**
Titus Young's 1-yard touchdown reception with 20 seconds left gave the Lions a come-from-behind win over the Seahawks.

▶ **Browns 7, Chargers 6**
In the biggest surprise of the day, the Browns earned their second win of the year by overtaking the Chargers in an offensive struggle. Cleveland running back Trent Richardson's touchdown in the first quarter proved to be the difference as San Diego's offense could only connect on two field goals in the loss.

▶ **Falcons 30, Eagles 17**
Atlanta continued to show why it is one of the best teams in the league as it improved to 7-0 with a road win in Philly. Matt Ryan tossed three TD passes.

▶ **Bears 23, Panthers 22**
Robbie Gould's 41-yard field goal with four seconds remaining gave the Bears the narrow win.

▶ **Dolphins 30, Jets 9**
Ryan Tannehill went down in the first quarter, but Miami still pounded New York.

Rondo the MVP?

Everything pointing to 2012-13 being the Celtics point guard's breakout individual season ▶ Voters may be getting tired of voting for LeBron

Three reasons why Rajon Rondo could win the 2012-13 NBA MVP award:

Voters are sick of LeBron

Voter fatigue in MVP races are always a factor in sports, and in the NBA there is a track record for this sort of thing.

Unlike baseball, where a new batch of MVP candidates pop up almost every season, basketball has a set list of five or six guys year-in and year-out who are eligible in the minds of voters. In today's era, it's LeBron and a handful of other superstars at the start of every season when talking MVP options.

For the first time, Rondo is one of those other options.

Michael Jordan was famously denied MVP three-peats in 1993 (to Charles Barkley) and 1997 (to Karl Malone) because most voters were tired of bowing at the altar of No. 23. James has won three MVP awards in four seasons (Derrick Rose won in 2011), and any sort of slippage in team or individual numbers this year will yield to voters looking elsewhere.

Rondo is unique

Like it or not, in the NBA, flash counts for something.

Rondo will be able to get out in transition like never before this season, with young guns like Avery Bradley (when he returns from injury), Courtney Lee and Jeff Green filling the lanes and heading straight to the rim. As we saw at times last year, Chris Wilcox is another player who can finish off Rondo alley-oops.

Fellow point guard Steve Nash won back-to-back MVPs in the middle part of the last decade, first because he was that good (11.0 assists per game, 17.1 points per game in those years). Second, because he was such a damn joy to watch.

Basketball purists will drool over what Rondo will do this season if any of these glowing preseason stories about his improvement come to fruition.

Regular season wonders

The Celtics are built to win 60 games in this regular season.

Whether or not a team that can go 12-deep will be able to thrive in the playoffs, when benches shorten dramatically, remains to be seen.

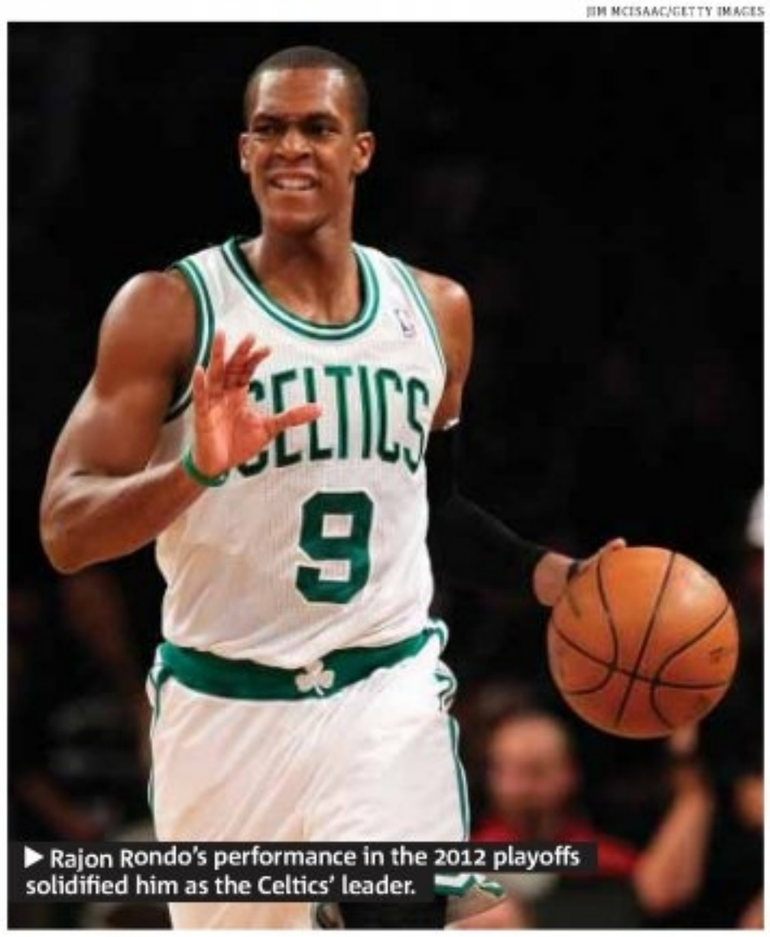
But typically, the best player on the team that wins the most regular-season games has a great shot at the award.

- Rose won in 2011 with 62 wins.
- LeBron guided Cleveland to 61 wins in 2010.
- Kobe Bryant won in 2008 as he guided the Lakers to the best record in the West with 57 wins.

Getting to or around 60 wins seems to be the key, and unlike previous years, the Celtics are poised for 82 games of success as opposed to just winning when it truly counts in the spring.

MATT BURKE
matthew.burke@metro.us

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Rajon Rondo's performance in the 2012 playoffs solidified him as the Celtics' leader.

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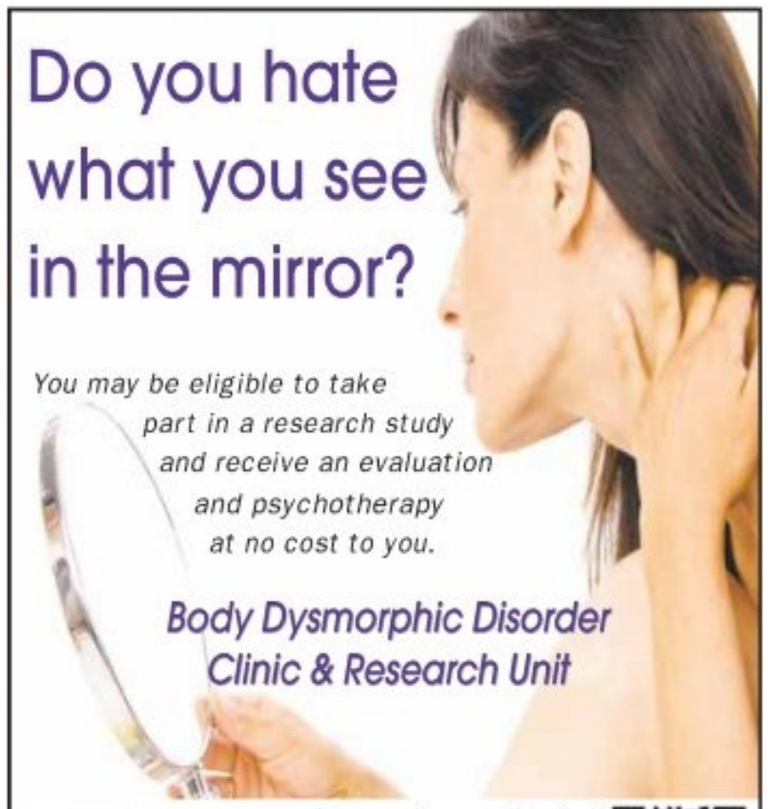

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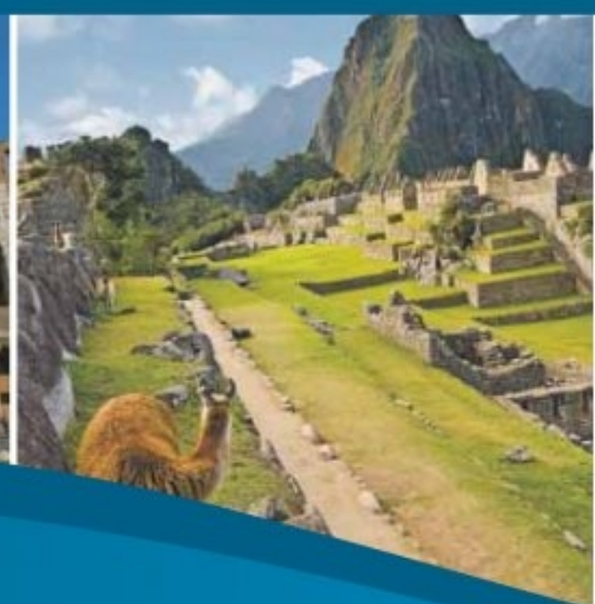

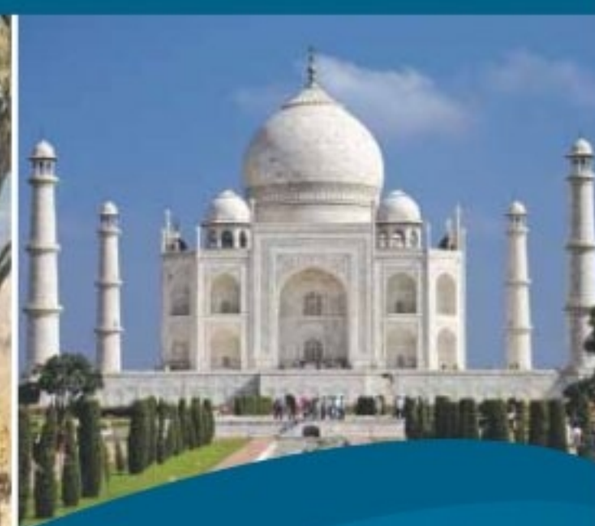

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